Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 AMMAN 01697 011550Z

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ACTION SS-30

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FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1016

SECRETAMMAN 1697

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, OVIP, JO, US (CPHASSAN)

SUBJECT: HASSAN VISIT, JORDAN DEVELOPMENT

REF: A. AMMAN 1210 B. STATE 059880

- 1. IN LONG DISCUSSION THIS MORNING WITH CROWN PRINCE CENTERING ON HIS VISIT, I PRESENTED ORALLY POINTS PROVIDED BY DEPARTMENT IN REFTEL (B).
- 2. HE REMAINS ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT HIS VISIT AND WOULD LIKE TO FOCUS AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE IN THE COURSE OF IT ON CONTINUING TO ATTRACT DONOR INTEREST AND FOREIGN TALENT TO AID IN JORDAN'S DEVELOPMENT. HE REMAINS IMPELLED BY GENERAL CONCEPT THAT WITHIN A YEAR AND A HALF UNRWA WILL PROBABLY DISAPPEAR FROM THE SCENE, AND INDEED IT SHOULD. BY THAT TIME JORDAN SHOULD HAVE WELL UNDERWAY ONGOING PROJECTS WHICH WILL REPRESENT A SIGNIFICANT START ON EAST BANK DEVELOPMENT, THE FUTURE POTENTIAL OF WHICH WILL SERVE TO ABSORB THE TIME AND ENERGY OF THE REFUGEES. HE THEREFORE CONTINUES TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT ANY LAGS IN THE PROCESS OF FUTURE PLANNING FOR THIS DEVELOPMENT AND IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECTS.
- 2. WITH SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO THE TIMING OF HIS VISIT, WE DISCUSSED THE FACT THAT, WHILE I HAD NO SPECIFIC DATES TO GIVE HIM, IT WAS LIKELY THE SECRETARY WILL BE SECRET

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IN JORDAN WHEN HASSAN WAS IN WASHINGTON AND INDEED THE

PROSPECT WAS FOR NEARLY THE WHOLE PERIOD OF HASSAN'S VISIT (APRIL 25 - MAY 4) THERE GOOD POSSIBILITY THAT SECRETARY WOULD BE IN MIDDLE EAST. HASSAN MOST ANXIOUS TO CONTINUE HIS INITIAL CONTACTS WITH SECRETARY AND SOLICIT HIS SUPPORT FOR GENERAL IDEAS OF DEVELOPMENT IN JORDAN. AS A RESULT, HE IS NOW MOVED TO PUT OFF A US VISIT UNTIL MID-MAY. HE MUST BE IN TOKYO MAY 6-12 AND COULD COME TO UNITED STATES ABOUT MAY 13. I TOLD HIM I WOULD ENDEAVOR TO CHECK SECRETARY'S TENTATIVE PLANS.

- 3. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE INDICATE WHETHER ABOVE TRAVEL ASSUMPTIONS FOR SECRETARY ARE CORRECT.
- 4. I BRIEFED HASSAN ON SOBER'S NEW ROLE. HE IS MOST ANXIOUS TO HAVE SOBER OUT HERE FOR A FEW DAYS PRIOR TO WASHINGTON VISIT. HE WANTS SOBER TO SIT DOWN WITH HIS OWN PLANNERS, DISCUSS PROGRAM AND PROVIDE SUGGESTIONS AS TO HASSAN'S APPROACH TO HIS VISIT IN THE UNITED STATES, IN-CLUDING GENERAL STRATEGY CROWN PRINCE MIGHT FOLLOW IN PRESERVING AND ENHANCING DONOR INTEREST IN JORDAN. HE TOURCHED AT SAME TIME ON POSSIBILITY OF ENTICING JOHN LOWDEN, 72-YEAR OLD RETIRED SHELL OIL EXECUTIVE WHO WAS INTRODUCED TO HASSAN BY DAVID ROCKEFELLER, TO COME TO JORDAN AT SAME TIME AS SOBER SO THAT THE TWO COULD MEET AND BE EXPOSED TO PLANS AND PROGRAM TOGETHER. COMMENT: LOWDEN HAS THUS FAR PRETTY MUCH INSISTED THAT HASSAN SEE HIM IN LONDON AND IT DOES NOT SEEM LIKELY CAN BE PERSUADED TO COME TO JORDAN OR COULD GIVE JORDAN ANYTHING LIKE THE ACTIVE SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE WHICH HASSAN EXPECTS. BE GRATEFUL FOR ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS DEPARTMENT MAY HAVE ON THIS QUESTION, AND COMMENT.
- 5. IN DISCUSSIONS WITH SOBER IN WASHINGTON, OUR GENERAL AGREED APPROACH WAS TO THINK ABOUT HIS VISITING AREA AFTER HASSAN'S VISIT. IN VIEW OF VERY LIKELY POSTPONEMENT IN CROWN PRINCE'S SCHEDULE, COULD SOBER AND DRAPER COME TO JORDAN WEEK APRIL 25 FOR TWO OR THREE DAYS, HOPEFULLY TO PRECEDE SECRETARY'S VISIT. HASSAN COUNTS GREATLY ON OUR ACTIVE SUPPORT AND FOLLOW-THROUGH HERE. WOULD BE VALUABLE OPPORTUNITY FOR SOBER TO GET ACQUAINTED AND SEE SITUATION ON SECRET

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THE GROUND. I RECOMMEND STRONGLY FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION OF THIS OR SIMILAR ALTERNATIVE WHICH CAN BE WORKED OUT IN SOBER'S SCHEDULE.
PICKERING

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NNN

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